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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/587,619

Applicant(s)

HAARH ET AL.

Examiner

JESSE PRAGER

Art Unit

3745

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/11/2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 37-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-69 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG-08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/26/2006

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The specification refers to Fig. 6 as Fig. 6a and Fig. 6b, while the set of drawings only contains Fig. 6a and 6b.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 42 is objected to because of the following informalities: "thread bars, welding means" should be changed to --thread bars, or welding means--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. Claims 37, 40, 41, 47, 50, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Wobben (WO Pub. 2003/104645).

In regards to claim 37, Wobben discloses a method of handling a wind turbine blade at least during storage, transport or mounting of the blade, the method comprising:

establishing at least one mounting hole penetrating a surface of the blade (Fig. 4);

mounting one or handling means (10, 32) including mounting means (30) in the at least one hole, and

handling the wind turbine blade by at least the handling means on the wind turbine blade where the one of more handling means are forced against the surface of the blade by the mounting means (par. 37 2005/0258064 US National Stage of WO Pub. 2003/104645).

In regards to claim 40, the mounting includes entering the mounting means through the blade (Fig. 4).

In regards to claim 41, the handling means (10, 32) are inherently connected to handling plates or walls.

In regards to claim 47, the handling system for handling a wind turbine blade at least during storage, transport or mounting of the blade, the system comprising at least one mounting hole penetrating a surface of the blade (Fig. 4), one or more handling means (10, 32) are capable to be positioned on the surface of the wind turbine blade and including a surface partly corresponding in shape to a section of the wind turbine blade that it covers, and

mounting means (30) to be mounted in the at least one hole.

In particular to the claim limitation, “one of more handling means include a surface partly corresponding in shape to a section of the wind turbine blade that it covers”, the handling means (10, 32) has inner surfaces which are flat in shape and correspond to the flat portion of the blade section that it covers.

In regards to claim 50, the system comprises two handling means (10, 32) positioned on opposite side of the wind turbine blade.

In regards to claim 51, the two handling means directly are connected by the mounting means (Fig. 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645) in view of Wobben (US Patent 6,371,730).

The method of handling a wind turbine blade of Wobben contains all of the steps as set forth in the rejection of claim 37, except the mounting hole is established by a drilling process.

Wobben (US Patent 6,371,730) discloses a mounting hole (24, 26) bored out of the rotor blade.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of handling a wind turbine blade of Wobben by boring the mounting holes, as taught by Wobben (US Patent '730), because forming holes by boring is a simple and inexpensive process for handling a wind turbine blade.

7. Claims 39 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645).

In regards to claim 39, Wobben teaches of mounting holes; however does not teach the at least one mounting hole is marked with visual signs indicating a location of the hole wherein the visual signs comprise visual lines or circles on the surface of the blade.

It is common practice for engineers in the art of handling wind turbine blades to indicate a position of a hole. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the handling

wind turbine blade art to modify the method of Wobben by marking the mounting position with visual signs such as lines or circles on the surface of the blade, for the purpose of providing guidance for drilling the mounting hole.

In regards to claim 42, Wobben teaches of a fixed connection in between mounting and handling means, however does not establish the connection by use of bolts, thread bars, or welding means.

It is common practice for engineers in the art of handling wind turbine blades to attach handling means by use of bolts, thread bars, or welding means. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the handling wind turbine blade art to modify the method of Wobben by establishing the connection to the handling means by use of bolts, thread bars, or welding means, for the purpose of providing a fixed connection to secure the handling means.

8. Claim 43 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645) in view of Wobben (WO Pub. 03/057528).

The method of handling a wind turbine blade of Wobben contains all of the steps as set forth in the rejection of claim 37, except the blade is handled at least by suspension points established by the handling means.

Wobben (WO Pub. 03/057528) discloses the blade is handled at suspension points (14, 44) established by the handling means (Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to handle the blade at suspension points established by handling means, as taught by Wobben (WO Pub. 03/057528) to prevent damage to the blade surface.

9. Claims 44-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645) in view of Wobben (US Patent 6,371,730), and in further view of Stiesdal et al. (US Patent Application 2003/0116262).

In regards to claim 44, Wobben discloses a method of manufacturing a wind turbine blade to be handled, the method comprising:

establishing at least one hole penetrating the surface at said at least one hole area (Fig. 4).

Wobben does not disclose the method of manufacturing a wind turbine blade comprises:

manufacturing at least a first and second shell of a wind turbine blade, and

reinforcing at least one hole area of an inner surface of an inner surface of at least one of the shells by applying further layers of material.

Wobben (US Patent 6,371,730) discloses reinforcing at least one hole area of an inner surface of at least one of the shells by applying further layers of material (Col. 5, lines 13-18).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of manufacturing a wind turbine blade by reinforcing the hole area of an inner surface of least one of the shells by applying further layers of material, as taught by Wobben, to strength the blade in the hole area.

Stiesdal et al. disclose manufacturing at least a first and second shell of wind turbine blade (par. 18-19, Fig. 1 and Fig. 2).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to manufacture the at least a first and second shell of a wind turbine blade, as taught by Stiesdal et al., because this is the conventional manufacturing technique for rotor blades that is simple and cost-effective.

In regards to claim 45, the modified method of manufacturing of Wobben contains all of the claimed steps as set forth in the rejection of claim 44, except at least one mounting hole is established by a drilling process.

Wobben (US Patent 6,371,730) discloses a mounting hole (24, 26) bored out of the rotor blade.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of manufacturing a wind turbine blade of Wobben by boring the mounting holes, as taught by Wobben (US Patent '730), because forming holes by boring is a simple and inexpensive process.

In regards to claim 46, Wobben teaches of mounting holes; however does not teach the at least one mounting hole is marked with visual signs indicating a location of the hole wherein the visual signs comprise visual lines or circles on the surface of the blade.

It is common practice for engineers in the art of handling wind turbine blades to indicate a position of a hole. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the handling wind turbine blade art to modify the method of Wobben by marking the mounting position with visual signs such as lines or circles on the surface of the blade, for the purpose of providing guidance for drilling the mounting hole.

10. Claims 48-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645).

In regards to claim 48, Wobben discloses a handling system for a wind turbine blade with the claimed elements as set forth in the rejection of claim 47 above, except the handling means

are connecting to a handling structure comprising handling rods, handling plates or handling walls of a transport container.

In Figures 1-3, Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645) discloses handling means connected to a handling structure comprising handling rods (28), handling plates (10, 16) and handling walls (14, 18) of a transport container.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handling system of Wobben in Fig. 4 by incorporating handling means features disclosed in Fig. 1-3 of the handling structure comprising handling rods, handling plates and handling walls of a transport container, to encapsulate and to protect the wind turbine blade.

In regards to claim 49, Wobben discloses a handling system for a wind turbine blade with the claimed elements as set forth in the rejection of claim 47 above, except the handling means are made in metal comprising a steel plate, in glass fiber reinforced plastic materials alone or in glass fiber reinforced plastic materials reinforced with carbon fiber or aramid.

It is common practice for engineers in the art of handling wind turbine blades to use strong materials to handle the wind turbine blades. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the handling wind turbine blade art to modify the handling system of Wobben by providing the handling means in metal comprising a steel plate, in glass fiber reinforced plastic materials alone or in glass fiber reinforced plastic materials reinforced with carbon fiber or aramid, as an engineering expedient for the purpose of providing a strong and tough material to prevent damage to the wind turbine blades.

11. Claims 49, 52, and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645) in view of Bervang (WO Pub. 03/100249).

In regards to claim 49, Wobben discloses a handling system with the claimed elements as set forth in the rejection of claims 47 above, except the handling means are made in metal comprising a steel plate, in glass fiber reinforced plastic materials alone or in glass fiber reinforced plastic materials reinforced with carbon fiber or aramid.

Bervang discloses the handling means are made in metal comprising a steel plate (Pg. 19, line 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handling systems of Wobben by providing handling means made of metal comprising a steel plate, as taught by Bervang, to provide a strong and tough material to prevent damage to the wind turbine blades.

In regards to claim 52, Wobben discloses a handling system for a wind turbine blade with the claimed steps as set forth in the rejection of claim 51 above, except the two flanges are fastened to opposite ends of the handling means and establish connection points for the mounting means.

Bervang discloses two flanges (31) are fastened to opposite ends of the handling means and establish connection points for the mounting means (Fig. 3c).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handling system of Wobben by fastening flanges to opposite handling means and establishing connection points for the mounting means, as taught by Bervang, to provide an adjustable grip for the wind turbine during transportation.

In regards to claim 53, Wobben discloses a handling system for a wind turbine blade with the claimed elements as set forth in the rejection of claim 47 above, except the mounting means is one or more bolts or thread bars with corresponding nuts.

Bervang discloses the mounting means is one or more bolts or thread bars (30) with corresponding nuts (Fig. 3c).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handling system of Wobben by providing bolts or thread bars with corresponding nuts, as taught by Bervang, to adjust the handling means to receive wind turbine blades with other dimensions.

12. Claims 54-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645).

In regards to claim 54, Wobben discloses a handling system for a wind turbine blade with the claimed elements as set forth in the rejection of claim 47 above, except the mounting means goes through the wind turbine blade next to a beam or any other strengthening structure in the blade.

It is common practice for engineers in the art of wind turbine blades to provide beams or any other strengthening structure in wind turbine blades such as ribs. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handling system of Wobben by providing the mounting means next to a strengthen structure, as an engineering expedient for the purpose of increasing the rigidity of the blade to prevent the blade from being crushed by the tensioned mounting means.

In regards to claim 55, the modified handling system of Wobben comprises a mounting means that goes through the blade on opposite sides of the strengthening structure in the blade. The modified handling system of Wobben lacks two mounting means that go through the blade on opposite sides of the strengthening structure in the blade.

However, it has been held the duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced. *In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960). Since having two mounting means on either side of the strengthening structure in the blade does not produce a new and unexpected result, the claim limitation has no patentable significance. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handling system of Wobben by having two mounting means on opposing sides of the strengthening structure in the blade to further support the blade within handling means.

13. Claim 56 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645) in view of Bervang (WO Pub. 03/100249).

Wobben discloses a handling system with the claimed elements as set forth in the rejection of claims 47 above, except one or more of the surfaces of the handling means comprise a high friction material.

Bervang disclose one or more of the surfaces of the handling means (28) comprise a high friction material (pg 19 lines 13-19, Fig. 3f).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handling system of Wobben by providing the handling means

with a high friction material, to prevent the blade from slipping from the handling means during transportation.

14. Claims 57-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645) in view of Wobben (US Patent 6,371,730).

In regards to claim 57, Wobben discloses a handling system for a wind turbine with the claimed elements as set forth in the rejection of claim 47 above, except the blade comprises at least one hole area with one or more reinforcement layers on an inner surface of the blade.

Wobben (US Patent 6,371,730) discloses reinforcing at least one hole area with one or more reinforcement layers on an inner surface of the blade (Col. 5, lines 13-18).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handling system of Wobben by reinforcing at least one hole area with one or more reinforcement layers on an inner surface of the blade, as taught by Wobben, to strength the blade in the hole area.

In regards to claim 58, the modified handling system of Wobben discloses the reinforcement layers comprise glass fiber reinforced plastic materials (Col. 5, lines 16-18).

15. Claims 59-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645).

Wobben teaches the handling system as set forth in the rejection of claim 47, however Wobben does not teach the specific ranges of length and weight of the wind turbine blade.

Since applicant has not disclosed that having the handling system with a blade with a specific range of length and weight solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose above the fact that the length and weight corresponds to a large wind turbine blade, and it

appears that the handling system of Wobben would perform equally well with the blade having a length and weight as claimed by applicant, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the length and weight of the wind turbine blade by utilizing the specific size and weight as claimed for the purpose of handling large turbine blades.

16. Claims 61-63, 65 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645) in view of Wobben (US Patent 6,371,730).

In regards to claim 61, Wobben discloses a wind turbine blade to be handled at least during storage, transport or mounting, the blade comprising at least one hole area (Fig. 4) and at least one hole where the said at least one hole penetrates the surface of the blade at the hole area.

Wobben does not disclose the at least one hole area with one or more reinforcement layers on an inner surface of the blade.

Wobben (Patent '730) discloses the at least one hole area with one or more reinforcement layer on an inner surface of the blade (Col. 5, lines 13-18).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the wind turbine blade of Wobben by reinforcing at least one hole area with one or more reinforcement layers on an inner surface of the blade, as taught by Wobben (Patent '730), to strength the blade in the hole area.

In regards to claim 62, the modified wind turbine blade of Wobben discloses the reinforcement layers comprising glass fiber reinforced plastic materials (Col. 5, lines 15-18).

In regards to claim 63, the modified wind turbine blade contains at least one mounting hole; however the modified wind turbine blade lacks the at least one mounting hole is marked

with visual signs indicating a location of the hole wherein the visual signs comprise visual lines or circles on the surface of the blade.

It is common practice for engineers in the art of handling wind turbine blades to indicate a position of a hole. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the handling wind turbine blade art to modify the method of Wobben by marking the mounting position with visual signs such as lines or circles on the surface of the blade, for the purpose of providing guidance for drilling the mounting hole.

In regards to claims 65 and 66, the modified wind turbine blade of Wobben contains all of the claimed elements as set forth in the rejection of claim 61, except the specific ranges of length and weight of the wind turbine blade.

Since applicant has not disclosed that having the wind turbine blade with a specific range of length and weight solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose above the fact that the length and weight corresponds to a large wind turbine blade, and it appears that the wind turbine of Wobben would perform equally well with the blade having a length and weight as claimed by applicant, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the length and weight of the wind turbine blade by utilizing the specific size and weight as claimed for the purpose of handling large turbine blades.

17. Claim 64 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645), in view of Wobben (US Patent 6,371,730) as applied to claim 61 above, and in further view of Flemming (US Patent Application 2004/0028528).

The modified wind turbine blade of Wobben contains all of the claimed elements, as set forth in the rejection of claim 61, except one or more of the least one hole is part of the lightning protection system of the blade.

Flemming discloses a hole (6) that is part of the lightning protection system of the blade.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the wind turbine blade of Wobben by providing one or more of the holes as part of the lightning protection system of the blade, as taught by Fleming, because inserting a lightning receptor through a bore is simple and inexpensive (par. 8).

18. Claims 67-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobben (WO Pub. 03/104645) in view of Bervang (WO Pub. 03/100249).

In regards to claim 67, Wobben discloses handling means (10, 32) for a wind turbine blade at least during storage, transport or mounting, said handling means comprising

one or more mounting holes for fastening means fastening the handling means to the surface of the wind turbine blade by using at least one hole in the wind turbine blade (Fig. 4, par. 37 in 2005/0258064 US National Stage of WO Pub. 2003/104645).

Wobben does not disclose an at least one surface substantially corresponding in shape to a section of the wind turbine blade that the handling means covers.

Bervang discloses surfaces (28a, 28b) substantially corresponding in shape to a section of the wind turbine blade that the handling means covers (pg. 19, lines 1-4).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handling means of Wobben by providing at least one surface

substantially corresponding in shape to a section of the wind turbine blade that the handling means covers, as taught by Bervang, to limit movement of the blade during handling.

In regards to claim 68, the modified handling means of Wobben contains the claimed elements as set forth in the rejection of claim 67 above, except the handling means are made in metal comprising a steel plate, in glass fiber reinforced plastic materials alone or in glass fiber reinforced plastic materials reinforced with carbon fiber or aramid.

Bervang discloses the handling means are made in metal comprising a steel plate (Pg. 19, line 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handling means of Wobben by providing handling means made of metal comprising a steel plate, as taught by Bervang, to provide a strong and tough material to prevent damage to the wind turbine blades.

Additionally, it is common practice for engineers in the art of handling wind turbine blades to use strong materials to handle the wind turbine blades. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the handling wind turbine blade art to modify the handling means of Wobben by providing the handling means in metal comprising a steel plate, in glass fiber reinforced plastic materials alone or in glass fiber reinforced plastic materials reinforced with carbon fiber or aramid, as an engineering expedient for the purpose of providing a strong and tough material to prevent damage to the wind turbine blades.

In regards to claim 69, the modified handling means of Wobben contains the claimed elements as set forth in the rejection of claims 67 above, except one or more of the surfaces of the handling means comprise a high friction material.

Bervang disclose one or more of the surfaces of the handling means (28) comprise a high friction material (pg 19 lines 13-19, Fig. 3f).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the handling means of Wobben by providing the handling means with a high friction material, to prevent the blade from slipping from the handling means during transportation.

Conclusion

Note for expediting the processing of this application, US Patent Publication 2005/0258064 is relied upon as translated version of WO Pub. 2003/104645. If there are concerns about the accuracy of this translation, and whether the subject matter is contained in the WO publication, a certified translation will be ordered by the examiner.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Almind (US Patent Application 2003/0175089) discloses a container system for transporting wind turbines.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JESSE PRAGER whose telephone number is (571)270-1412. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look can be reached on (571)272-4820. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JESSE PRAGER/
Examiner, Art Unit 3745

1/7/2010

/Edward K. Look/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3745